

## *Draft Media Release*

### **Community Partnership with SCA benefits Local Environment.**

The Bungonia Park Trust is pleased to announce the completion of environmental improvement works at Bungonia Creek. The Trust members and other residents voluntary labour was complimented by a Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Grant of \$6,680.00 made under the Catchment Protection and Improvement Grant Scheme. The Park Trust and other volunteers contributed \$5925.00 in labour and use of machinery and equipment plus \$632.50 in cash. The funds were mostly spent on the professional removal of a heavy infestation of crack willows (*Salix fragilis*).

The Managing Director of the SCA, Mr Graeme Head, said that the Bungonia Park Trust had worked extremely hard to effectively remove large amounts of noxious weeds including hawthorn, briars and blackberry from the banks of Bungonia Creek between Woodward's creek and the Northern side of the bridge.

The Bungonia Park Trust are a small group of very dedicated and hard working locals who have done a tremendous job of rehabilitating the creek banks. The SCA is able to assist groups like this in order to carry out really heavy work or work which requires professional expertise and equipment" Mr Head said.

"Introduced species of flora like the crack willows had choked the waterways and badly affected water quality. Their aggressive spread can also replace native vegetation and affect biodiversity".

"The weed removal has been followed by the planting of native shrubs, grasses and trees. The Trust was helped by the children of Windellama Public School, Greening Australia and Green Corp volunteers" he said.

Diana Moran, President of the Bungonia Park Trust said that visitors to the park will immediately see the improvements along the creek.

"People are now able to walk along the banks of the creek and experience a much more natural creek environment. As the newly planted native species grow, we expect to see an increase in the number of birds and animals. Already we have seen the regeneration of remnant vegetation and increased growth of the plants that were already there due to the removal of the willows," Mrs Moran said.

Graeme Head praised the volunteers of the Bungonia Park for their effective management of the project so far, as well as for their forward planning and commitment.

"The long term benefits for biodiversity and water quality in projects such as this can only be maintained by the ongoing efforts of dedicated volunteers like the Bungonia Park Trust," Mr Head said.